captioned "Coordination: key to growth of tourism" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of July 25, 1991, stating that devaluation of the rupee would make India a cheap destination for foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what special steps are contemplated to explore and exploit the added potential for attracting foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to project in the overseas market, the competitiveness of Indian tourism product in the overseas markets.

Grounding of Boeing 707

940. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India Bombay edition, dated July 24, 1991, captioned "Airline with no destination", reporting that Boeing 707 belonging to the Bombay based 'Confidential Aviation' was parked in a corner of Nagpur Airport for about a month;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances under which the aircraft was so grounded; and

(c) what steps have been taken to put it on wing again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aircraft was grounded at Nagpur airport due to technical problems.

(c) The aircraft belongs to a private party, namely, M/s. Continental Aviation.

Privatisation of Oil Sector

941. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately been considering privatisation of certain areas in oil sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals in this regard and the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Private Sector participation to a certain extent already exists in exploration, refining and marketing activities of the petroleum sector.

Navigational aids in North-Eastern Airports

942. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that navigational and communication aids in the North-Eastern Region are in appalling condition as per the news item entitled "Unreliable Navigational Aids" which appeared in the Times of India of the 19th August, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?